S. No.	Name of the firm	Quantity ordered (in nos.)	Quantity cancelled (in nos.)
13.	M/s. Titagarh Wagons Ltd., Calcutta	600	180
14.	M/s. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd., Kolar Gold Field	60	18
15.	M/s. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd., Mumbai	87	26
16.	M/s. Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd., Calcutta	30	9

No orders have been placed so far for 1999-2000.

Vacancies of Chairman and Directors

586. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of top vacancies of Chairman, Managing Director, Directors etc. still lying vacant in the various PSUs, Boards, Committees functioning under the Ministry of Railways for the last 2 years;

(b) What are the reasons for not filling up the vacancies; and

(c) What are Government's future plan in this regard and time limit fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) One.

(b) The post of Managing Director, Indian Railway Finance Corporation has been lying vacant for the last two years. The officer who was offered the appointment in August 1997 showed unwillingness to take up the assignment. Thereupon fresh selection process had been started and finding poor response from officers to be appointed on absorption terms, Department of Personnel & Training has been requested to relax the rules to permit the Railways to go ahead with the selection offering deputation terms to the prospective candidates. In this regard, the matter is under correspondence with Department of Personnel & Training.

(c) All out efforts are being made to finalise the appointment of Managing Director/IRFC in consultation with Department of Personnel & Training.

Railway projects in Assam

587. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing railway projects in Assam during the last three years and till date;

(b) the target date fixed for their completion and progress of these projects; and

(c) the funds provided for the said projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c)

Name of Project	Expenditure (Figures in Crs. of Rs.)			Remarks
New Line	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
Jogighopa-Guwahati (Assam)	30.17	23.17	25.14	The Brahmputra bridge and line from Jogighopa to Goalpara has been completed and commissioned. The Section from Goalpara to Guwahati is likely to be completed during 1999-2000.
Dudhnoi-Depa (Assam and Meghalaya)	0.09	0.37	0.01	The work was sanctioned in 1992-93. However, Meghalaya govt. has not made available the land so far for this project due to resistance from local people. There is no problem inacquiring the land for the portion of the line falling in Assam and land acquisition will be pursued after the land in Meghalaya is handed over. Work on this project would be taken up only after the land becomes available and will be completed within 2 years of land being made available. Target date not yet fixed.
Bogibeel bridge (Assam)	0	0	0	The detailed investigation & final location survey has been taken up by RITES. CCEA clearance has also been obtained. As it is a rail-cum-road bridge, sharing of cost is to be fied up. RITES have completed he field survey, geo-technicals investigations, siesmic studies etc. Studies in respect of hydraulic model, traffic, design of bridge, protection works etc. are in progress. The report is expected by Oct., 1999. Work will be started once the survey including model studies is completed and alignment is fixed and land becomes available. Target date not yet fixed.
Diphu-Karong (Assam, Nagaland and Manipur)	0	0	01	The CCEA has since cleared this work in their meeting held on 09.09.98. The final location survey has been taken up which will be followed by land acquisition. Work will be started once the land is made available by the State Govt. Target date not yet fixed.

Name of Project	Expenditure (Figures in Crs. of Rs.)			Remarks
New Line	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
Harmuti-Itanagar (Assam and Arunachal Pradesh)	0	0	0	Final location survey and preparation of land acquisition plans and papers is in progress. The field survey has been completed and the estimate and other works are in progress. Work will be started once land becomes available. Target date not yet fixed.
Gauge Conversion Lumding-Dibrugarh (Assam)	109.50	186.39	187.23	The work of main line from Lumding to Dibrugarh, Tinsukia-Lekhapani and branch lines from Furkating to Mariani and Simalguri-Moranhat has been completed. Gauge Conversion work on Makum-Dangari and Amguri-Tuli sections is being planned. Funds provided are adequate for completing the balance work as planned. Target date not yet fixed.
New Guwahati-Lumdig including Chaparmukh-Haribargaon Linked Branches	7.15	5.23	3.43	
Lumding-Silchar	0	0.06	1.16	Final location survey for diversions in the ghat section to suit the requirement of BG and preparation of land acquisition plan and papers has been taken up. RITES have already completed the paper alignment for entire length and staking of the alignment has been taken up. Earthwork and bridges has been taken up between Badarpur and Silchar (30 km) where no change in alignment is necessary. Target date not yet fixed.
New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-Bong aigaon	0	0	0	CCEA has cleared this project in therir meeting held on 04.02.1999. The preliminary works like final location survey, preparation of detailed estimate is being taken up. The tenders for earth work and bridges are also being processed. Target date not yet fixed.
Katakhal-Bairabhi	0	0	0	CCEA has cleared this project in their meeting held on 04.02.1999. Preliminary arrangements are being made for taking up the work.

Name of Project	Expenditure (Figures in Crs. of Rs.)			Remarks
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
New Line				
NB. Actual expenditure during 1998-99 will be known after close of the financial year 1998-99.				
Maligaon-Alipurduar Replacement of existing Analog Microwave equipment by Digital Microwave equipment.	0	0	0	Detailed estimate under process of sanction Target date for completion 31.3.2001.

हबीबगंज और निजामुद्दीन के बीच रेलगाड़ी का चलाया जाना

588. **श्री राघव जी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे की नई समय सारणी में इस बात का उल्लेख है कि मध्य रेलवे में हबीबगंज (भोपाल) और निजामुद्दीन के बीच एक नई तेज रेलगाड़ी शुरू की जाएगी;

(ख) क्या कथित रेलगाड़ी चलनी शुरू हो गई है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है और इसके कब तक शुरू किए जाने की संभावना है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वियन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) हबीबगंज पर अतिक्रमणों के न हटने के कारण गाड़ी शुरू नहीं की गई और जब तक अतिक्रमण हटाये नहीं जाते तब तक शुरू नहीं जा सकती।

Railway Accidents

589. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of railway accidents due to derailment is on the rise;

(b) whether Government have gone into the causes responsible for these accidents;

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to minimise these accidents; and

(d) whether climatic conditions have any impact on rail tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. Barring 1997-98, when number of accident due to derailments has marginally increased to 289 in comparison to 286 in 1996-97, the number of accident due to derailment has continuously declined from 538 in 1986-87 to 289 in 1997-98.

(b) Each of the accidents is inquired into by a committee of officers or Commissioner of Railway Safety depending upon the extent of damage. As per findings of the inquiry committee, the main causes of these accidents are human failure, equipment failure, sabotage and other miscellaneous factors.